



# Ichthyofauna of streams of the Lower Paranapanema River basin, state of Paraná, Brazil

**Ana Paula Vidotto-Magnoni<sup>1</sup>, Diego Azevedo Zoccal Garcia<sup>1,2</sup>, Alexandro Derly Augusto Costa<sup>1,2</sup>, Jaqueline Garcia de Souza<sup>1</sup>, Marcelo Hideki Shigaki Yabu<sup>1,2</sup>, Fernanda Simões de Almeida<sup>3</sup> and Mário Luís Orsi<sup>1</sup>**

- 1 Universidade Estadual de Londrina – Laboratório de Ecologia de Peixes e Invasões Biológicas. Centro de Ciências Biológicas, Departamento de Biologia Animal e Vegetal, Rodovia Celso Garcia Cid, PR 445, Km 380, CEP 86.057-970 – Londrina, Paraná, Brazil
  - 2 Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências Biológicas, AC: Biodiversidade e Conservação de Habitats Fragmentados. Universidade Estadual de Londrina, Centro de Ciências Biológicas, Rodovia Celso Garcia Cid, PR 445, Km 380, CEP 86.057-970 – Londrina, Paraná, Brazil
  - 3 Universidade Estadual de Londrina – Laboratório de Genética e Ecologia Animal. Centro de Ciências Biológicas, Departamento de Biologia Geral, Rodovia Celso Garcia Cid, PR 445, Km 380, CEP 86.057-970 – Londrina, Paraná, Brazil
- \* Corresponding author. E-mail: [anavidotto@gmail.com](mailto:anavidotto@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** Several studies of small watersheds of in the Upper Paraná River basin are currently available. However, the number and extent of its tributary streams still pose a challenge to enhancing current knowledge of their ichthyofauna. This study aimed to survey the fish fauna of three streams of the Lower Paranapanema River basin, state of Paraná, Brazil (Capim, Tenente and Centenário streams). The sampling included 3,167 specimens belonging to five orders, 17 families and 56 species. The streams presented differences in species richness (Centenário Stream: 41 species; Tenente Stream: 33 species; Capim Stream: 30 species). Two species occurred at all collection sites (*Astyanax bockmanni* and *Hypostomus ancistroides*). Nine non-native species were recorded, four of them found exclusively in the Centenário Stream.

**Key words:** Upper Paraná River basin, non-native species, small order rivers

## INTRODUCTION

The Paranapanema River is situated in the upper portion of the Paraná River basin. It rises on the mountain slopes of the Planalto Cristalino Ocidental (Castro et al. 2003) near the Serra de Paranapiacaba, municipality of Capão Bonito, state of São Paulo, at an altitude of 903 m (Sampaio 1944). Its approximate length is 930 km. It flows west forming a natural border of nearly 390 km between the states of Paraná and São Paulo from the mouth of the Itararé River to its outflow into the Paraná River (Maack 2012). Due to its high elevational drop

between the source and the mouth (600 m; Sampaio 1944) it has been intensively exploited by the Brazilian hydroelectric sector. The Paranapanema River basin has an area of approximately 109,600 km<sup>2</sup>, with about 2% flooded for the installation of 11 hydroelectric cascade power plant stations in the main channel of the river. The installed capacity is 2,500 MW, which represents 2.5% of the electricity generation in Brazil (Duke Energy 2008; Arcifa and Esguícero 2012; Duke Energy 2013).

The ichthyofauna of the Paranapanema River includes approximately 155 species (Duke Energy 2008), but this number is likely underestimated. Prior studies covered areas flooded by reservoirs (Brandão et al. 2009; Vidotto-Magnoni 2009; Orsi 2010; Kurchewski and Carvalho 2014) besides rivers, streams and creeks (Galves et al. 2007; Cunico et al. 2012; Pagotto et al. 2012; Cetra et al. 2012; Cionek et al. 2012; Costa et al. 2013).

Small order rivers often harbor high richness of small-bodied fish species (Castro et al. 2003), many of which may be new to science and require identification and description (Langeani et al. 2007). Thus, new inventories are necessary to improve information about the fish diversity of the region. Furthermore, knowledge of ichthyofaunal structure in small order rivers can inform the usage and regulation of water resources by suggesting alternatives to minimize impacts and degradation (Langeani et al. 2007). Several streams of the Paranapanema River basin have never been inventoried, and given this lack of information, the current study aims to present an inventory of the ichthyofauna of three streams of the Lower Paranapanema River basin.

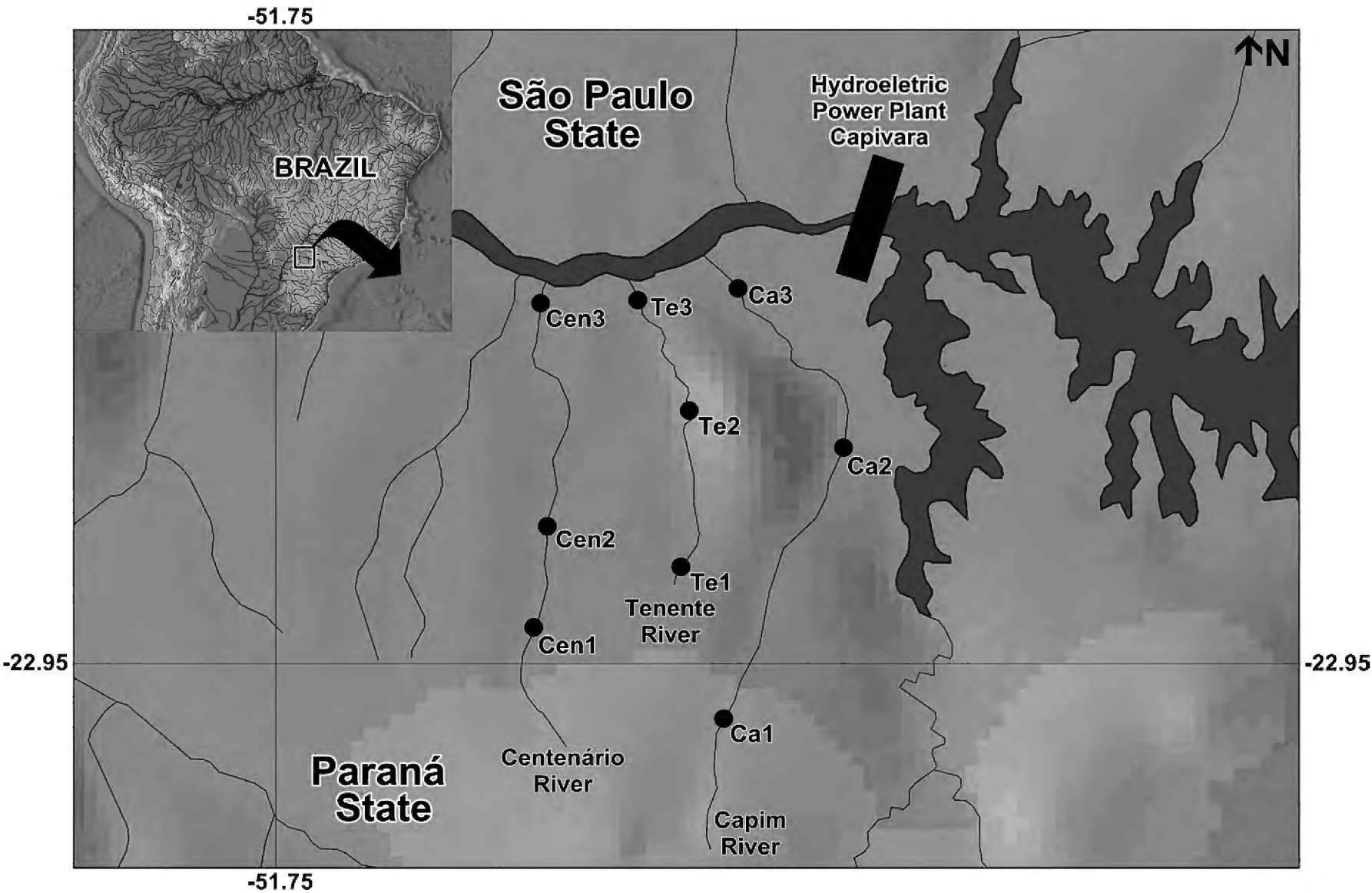
MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study site

The three surveyed streams belong to the Lower Paranapanema River basin and flow into the left bank of the hydroelectric plant reservoir Escola Politécnica (Taquaruçu), between the municipalities of Porecatu and Centenário do Sul, northern Paraná (22°32' – 22°42' S,

052°01' – 051°22' W) (Figure 1). The region is embedded in extensive sugar cane crop, the main agricultural activity in the area since 1970.

The sampled streams differ from each other in vegetational composition, bed substrate granulometry and other geomorphological characteristics (Table 1). The greatest stream width was recorded in the Tenente



**Figure 1.** Location of the Lower Paranapanema River showing the Capivara Reservoir upstream and the Taquaruçu Reservoir downstream of the collection sites of the Capim (Ca1, Ca2, Ca3), Tenente (Te1, Te2, Te3) and Centenário (Cen1, Cen2, Cen3) streams. Scale: 1: 350,000. Geographic coordinates: Capim Stream - lower stretch (Ca3) 22°58'58.0" S, 051°27'36.2" W; middle stretch (Ca2) 22°48'45.8" S, 051°23'00.6" W; upper stretch (Ca1) 22°42'23.6" S, 051°26'42.6" W; Tenente Stream - lower stretch (Te3) 22°53'22.9" S, 051°28'57.2" W; middle stretch (Te2) 22°47'11.2" S, 051°29'14.6" W, upper stretch (Te1) 22°43'00.2" S, 051°30'36.0" W; Centenário Stream - lower stretch (Cen3) 22°43'00.2" S, 051°33'46.5" W; middle stretch (Cen2) 22°53'31.4" S, 051°33'46.5" W; and upper stretch (Cen1) 22°55'11.6" S, 051°34'46.8" W.

**Table 1.** Maximum and minimum width, depth, water speed and physical characterization of streams and their surroundings at the sampling stretches of the Capim, Tenente and Centenário streams, Lower Paranapanema River basin, Paraná.

	Stretch	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Water speed (m/s)	Predominant substrate at the bottom	Riparian vegetation	Surroundings
Capim Stream (Length: 60 km)	Ca1	4.15 - 6.30	0.5 - 1.40	0.13 - 0.85	Fine sediment	Absent	Agriculture (Sugar cane)
	Ca2	3.80 - 19.0	0.45 - 2.50	0.13 - 0.91	Fine sediment	Absent	Agriculture (Sugar cane)
	Ca3	3.35 - 25.0	0.4 - 0.90	0.18 - 0.94	Fine sediment	Absent	Agriculture (Sugar cane)
Tenente Stream (Length: 31 km)	Te1	2.47 - 3.60	0.44 - 0.80	0.11 - 0.86	Fine sediment	Absent	Agriculture (Sugar cane)
	Te2	9.50 - 17.50	0.25 - 1.10	0.18 - 0.41	Pebbles	Present	—
	Te 3	9.80 - 16.0	0.7 - 1.25	0.19 - 0.53	Fine sediment	Absent	Agriculture (Sugar cane)
Centenário Stream (Length: 50 km)	Cen1	2.75 - 7.76	0.40 - 1.0	0.08 - 0.30	Fine sediment	Absent	Agriculture (Sugar cane)
	Cen2	7.4 - 12.0	0.48 - 0.75	0.10 - 0.23	Fine sediment	Absent	Agriculture (Sugar cane)
	Cen3	4.5 - 9.0	0.80 - 1.20	0.19 - 0.59	Fine sediment	Absent	Agriculture (Sugar cane)

stretch two (Te2 = 17.5 m). The depth varied between 0.25 m (Te2 stretch) and 2.5 m (Te1 stretch) and the current velocity between 0.08 m/s (Cen 1) and 0.94 m/s (Ca3).

Data collection

Fish collection occurred quarterly, between May 2012 and August 2013, using a standardized experimental fishing technique in three sampling points at each stream (upper, middle and lower portions). Two hours of sampling effort were employed at each site, covering an extension of 100 meters. The use of trawls, sieves (2 mm mesh) and cast nets (2 cm mesh), with approximately 25 square meters of sampling effort per hour, enabled the evaluation of a high number of existing microhabitats.

Collected fish were anesthetized and euthanized by immersion in a water solution with clove oil and then fixed in 10% formalin. Fish were identified in the laboratory following to Graça and Pavanelli (2007) and transferred to 70% ethanol. Eschmeyer (2015) was used to verify the validity of the taxonomic names and provide the classification used. Voucher specimens were deposited in the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade Estadual de Londrina (MZUEL). The inventory includes the number of species in each stream and the percentage of species per taxonomic family and order.

RESULTS

This survey collected 3,167 specimens belonging to five orders, 17 families and 56 species. The Centenário Stream harbored the greatest number of species (41), followed by the Tenente (33) and the Capim (30) (Table 2).

Comparing the three stretches of each stream, the Capim exhibited the greatest number of species recorded in the lower stretch (Ca3 = 18 species). The Tenente showed the largest number of species in the middle stretch (Te2 = 21 species) and the Centenário in the upper stretch (Cen1 = 26 species). There is an increase of species richness from the upper to the lower portion of the Capim Stream, and a decrease of the number of species downstream of the Tenente and Centenário streams.

Two species occurred in all stretches: *Astyanax bockmanni* Vari & Castro, 2007 and *Hypostomus ancistroides* (Ihering, 1911). Other species had a widespread occurrence, being found in at least six collection points: *Astyanax altiparanae* Garutti & Britski, 2000, *Astyanax fasciatus* (Cuvier, 1819), *Astyanax paranae* Eigenmann, 1914, *Bryconamericus iheringii* (Boulenger, 1887), *Bryconamericus stramineus* Eigenmann, 1908 and *Poecilia reticulata* Peters, 1859. Contrastingly, 31 species occurred only at one or two collection sites. Fourteen species were collected exclusively in the Centenário Stream, all in the upper stretch (Cen1).

Three species are not listed in the inventory of Paraná River Basin (Langeani et al. 2007): *Astyanax bockmanni*, *Gymnotus omarorum* Richer-de-Forges, Crampton & Albert, 2009 and *Phalloceros harpagos* Lucinda, 2008 (Table 2). *Hisonotus francirochai* (Ihering, 1928), *Hypostomus nigromaculatus* (Schubart, 1967), *Hypostomus paulinus* (Ihering, 1905), *Hypostomus strigaticeps* (Regan, 1908), *Apteronotus* cf. *caudimaculosus* (de Santana, 2003) and *Crenicichla jaguarensis* Haseman, 1911 also are not included in the catalog of species of the Paranapanema River (Duke Energy 2008) (Table 2).

Table 2. Taxonomic status (Eschmeyer 2015), occurrence and voucher number of fish species collected in the Capim, Tenente and Centenário streams, Lower Paranapanema River basin, Paraná. †: non-native species in the Paranapanema River basin.

Species	Capim			Tenente			Centenário			Voucher number
	Ca1	Ca2	Ca3	Te1	Te2	Te3	Cen1	Cen2	Cen3	
Characiformes										
Parodontidae										
<i>Apareiodon ibitiensis</i> Campos, 1944		X			X				X	MZUEL 6570
<i>Apareiodon affinis</i> (Steindachner, 1879)	X	X		X			X			MZUEL 6587
<i>Parodon nasus</i> Kner, 1859		X								MZUEL 6587
Curimatidae										
<i>Steindachnerina insculpta</i> (Fernández-Yépez, 1948)		X		X	X		X			MZUEL 6586
Crenuchidae										
<i>Characidium gomesi</i> Travassos, 1956			X							MZUEL 9413
Characidae										
<i>Aphyocharax dentatus</i> Eigenmann & Kennedy, 1903 †							X		X	MZUEL 6559
<i>Astyanax altiparanae</i> Garutti & Britski, 2000	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			MZUEL 6561
<i>Astyanax bockmanni</i> Vari & Castro, 2007	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	MZUEL 6562
<i>Astyanax fasciatus</i> (Cuvier, 1819)	X	X	X	X				X	X	MZUEL 6592
<i>Astyanax paranae</i> Eigenmann, 1914	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	MZUEL 6568
<i>Bryconamericus iheringii</i> (Boulenger, 1887)	X	X	X	X	X				X	MZUEL 6583
<i>Bryconamericus stramineus</i> Eigenmann, 1908	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	MZUEL 6560
<i>Hyphessobrycon eques</i> (Steindachner, 1882) †							X			MZUEL 9399
<i>Moenkhausia sanctaefilomenae</i> (Steindachner, 1907) †							X			MZUEL 6564
<i>Oligosarcus paranensis</i> Menezes & Géry, 1983		X		X	X					MZUEL 6595

Continued



Table 2. Continued.

Species	Capim			Tenente			Centenário			Voucher number
	Ca1	Ca2	Ca3	Te1	Te2	Te3	Cen1	Cen2	Cen3	
<i>Oligosarcus pinto</i> Campos, 1945							X			MZUEL 9400
<i>Piabina argentea</i> Reinhardt, 1867	X	X	X	X	X					MZUEL 6590
<i>Roeboides descalvadensis</i> Fowler, 1932 †				X			X			MZUEL 6565
<i>Serrapinnus notomelas</i> (Eigenmann, 1915)		X				X				MZUEL 9408
<b>Erythrinidae</b>										
<i>Hoplias</i> aff. <i>malabaricus</i> (Bloch, 1794)						X			X	MZUEL 7430
<b>Lebiasinidae</b>										
<i>Pyrhulina australis</i> Eigenmann & Kennedy, 1903							X			MZUEL 9401
<b>Siluriformes</b>										
<b>Cetopsidae</b>										
<i>Cetopsis gobioides</i> Kner, 1857	X									MZUEL 9411
<b>Trichomycteridae</b>										
<i>Trychomycterus</i> sp.								X		MZUEL 7427
<b>Callichthyidae</b>										
<i>Callichthys callichthys</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)							X			MZUEL 9402
<i>Corydoras aeneus</i> (Gill, 1858)	X						X			MZUEL 9397
<b>Loricariidae</b>										
<i>Hisonotus francirochai</i> (Ihering, 1928)			X		X	X			X	MZUEL 9603
<i>Hypostomus albopunctatus</i> (Regan, 1908)								X		MZUEL 7429
<i>Hypostomus ancistroides</i> (Ihering, 1911)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	MZUEL 6574
<i>Hypostomus nigromaculatus</i> (Schubart, 1967)			X	X	X			X		MZUEL 6576
<i>Hypostomus paulinus</i> (Ihering, 1905)				X						MZUEL 6585
<i>Hypostomus strigaticeps</i> (Regan, 1908)	X		X	X	X			X		MZUEL 6581
<i>Hypostomus</i> sp. 1					X					MZUEL 9406
<i>Hypostomus</i> sp. 2					X					MZUEL 9405
<i>Hypostomus</i> sp. 3						X	X			MZUEL 7433
<i>Imparfinis schubarti</i> (Gomes, 1956)						X				MZUEL 6578
<i>Loricariichthys platymetopon</i> Isbrücker & Nijssen, 1979 †	X									MZUEL 9410
<i>Neoplecostomus</i> sp.			X		X			X		MZUEL 6575
<b>Heptaperidae</b>										
<i>Cetopsorhamdia iheringi</i> Schubart & Gomes, 1959				X	X					MZUEL 6582
<i>Phenacorhamdia tenebrosa</i> (Schubart, 1964)				X	X					MZUEL 7434
<i>Rhamdia quelen</i> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824)			X	X	X	X			X	MZUEL 6569
<b>Auchenipteridae</b>										
<i>Trachelyopterus galeatus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766) †							X			MZUEL 9404
<b>Gymnotiformes</b>										
<b>Gymnotidae</b>										
<i>Gymnotus omarorum</i> Richer-de-Forges, Crampton & Albert, 2009 †			X				X		X	MZUEL 6573
<i>Gymnotus inaequilabiatus</i> (Valenciennes, 1839)							X			MZUEL 9412
<i>Gymnotus sylvius</i> Albert & Fernandes-Matioli, 1999			X			X			X	MZUEL 6573
<b>Sternopygidae</b>										
<i>Eigenmannia trilineata</i> López & Castello, 1966							X			MZUEL 8722
<i>Sternopygus macrurus</i> (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)							X			MZUEL 9403
<b>Apteronotidae</b>										
<i>Apteronotus</i> cf. <i>caudimaculosus</i> de Santana, 2003							X			MZUEL 6567
<b>Cyprinodontiformes</b>										
<b>Poeciliidae</b>										
<i>Phalloceros caudimaculatus</i> (Hensel, 1868)				X			X			MZUEL 6567
<i>Phalloceros harpagos</i> Lucinda, 2008		X	X							MZUEL 9414
<i>Poecilia reticulata</i> Peters, 1859 †			X	X		X	X	X	X	MZUEL 6580
<b>Perciformes</b>										
<b>Cichlidae</b>										
<i>Cichlasoma paranaense</i> Kullander, 1983						X	X		X	MZUEL 6571
<i>Crenicichla britskii</i> Kullander, 1982		X					X	X		MZUEL 6563
<i>Crenicichla jaguarensis</i> Haseman, 1911							X			MZUEL 6566
<i>Crenicichla</i> sp.					X					MZUEL 9407
<i>Geophagus brasiliensis</i> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824)		X			X				X	MZUEL 6572
<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) †	X							X		MZUEL 9409
Number of species (stretches)	14	17	18	20	21	13	26	13	16	
Number of species (stream)		30			33			41		

The predominance of characiform and siluriform species was evident in all streams (Table 3), but when individually analyzing them, the ichthyofaunal pattern is slightly divergent. Among Characiformes, the most represented family in number of species was Characidae, with 25% of the total, representing up to 31% of the species of the Capim Stream. Regarding Siluriformes, Loricariidae was the most represented (21.4% of the total), totaling 30.3% of species in the Tenente Stream. The occurrence of families varied in each of the three streams. Five families occurred exclusively in the Centenário Stream (Lebiasinidae, Trichomycteridae, Auchenipteridae, Sternopygidae and Aptereronotidae) and two only in the Capim Stream (Crenuchidae and Cetopsidae), both represented by a single species.

Nine non-native species were recorded in the three streams, i.e., four characiform, two siluriform, one cyprinodontiform and one perciform. *Poecilia reticulata* was the only species recorded in all streams (in six of the nine stretches). *Roeboides descavadensis* Fowler, 1932 was recorded in the Tenente and Centenário streams, and *Loricariichthys platymetopon* Isbrücker & Nijssen, 1979 was recorded only in the Capim Stream. *Gymnotus omarorum* was recorded in Capim and Centenário streams. Four non-native species were recorded exclusively in the Centenário Stream (*Aphyocharax dentatus* Eigenmann & Kennedy, 1903, *Hyphessobrycon eques* (Steindachner, 1882), *Moenkhausia sanctaefilomenae* (Steindachner, 1907) and *Trachelyopterus galeatus* (Linnaeus, 1766)).

DISCUSSION

The inventory undertaken in the Capim, Tenente and Centenário streams resulted in the identification of 56

fish species. This number exceeds the richness found by Castro et al. (2003) in 17 stretches of the streams of the Paranapanema River basin (52 species).

Three of the species registered are not included in the survey of Langeani et al. (2007) that comprises the Upper Paraná River basin, and nine are new records regarding the inventory of fish species of Paranapanema River basin (Duke Energy 2008). The results of other recent inventories conducted in different sub-basins of the Paranapanema River (Cetra et al. 2012; Cionek et al. 2012; Pagotto et al. 2012) and this study together indicate that the ichthyofaunal diversity of the Paranapanema River is currently underestimated and is likely to undergo a considerable increase in its fish species richness as more studies are conducted.

Most of the recorded species are small to medium-sized individuals exhibiting many rheophilic behaviors (Casatti et al. 2006; Langeani et al. 2007). The occurrence of *A. bockmanni* and *H. ancistroides* in all collection sites may be related to the high tolerance of these species to environmental degradation (Petesse et al. 2007; Furlan et al. 2013). There were also species adapted to the stretches impacted by dams and use both environments. Among the latter are *S. insculpta*, *A. affinis*, *H. ancistroides*, *L. platymetopon* and *E. trilineata* (Agostinho et al. 1995; Bennemann and Shibatta 2002). *Steindachnerina insculpta* inhabits both the flooded area of the Taquaruçu reservoir and the streams, as recorded by Britto and Carvalho (2006).

The dominance of Characiformes and Siluriformes is a taxonomic pattern described for the Neotropical freshwater region as a whole (Lowe-McConnell 1999). This dominance also prevails in other tributaries of

Table 3. Species richness (%) by taxonomic order and family in the Capim, Tenente and Centenário streams, Lower Paranapanema River basin, Paraná.

Order	Family	Total	Capim	Tenente	Centenário
Characiformes	Parodontidae	5.4	10.3	6.1	4.9
	Curimatidae	1.8	3.4	3.0	2.4
	Crenuchidae	1.8	3.4		
	Characidae	25.0	31.0	30.3	26.8
	Erythrinidae	1.8		3.0	2.4
	Lebiasinidae	1.8			2.4
Total Characiformes		37.5	48.3	42.4	39.0
Siluriformes	Cetopsidae	1.8	3.4		
	Trichomycteridae	1.8			2.4
	Callichthyidae	3.6	3.4		4.9
	Loricariidae	21.4	20.7	30.3	17.1
	Heptaperidae	5.4	3.4	9.1	2.4
	Auchenipteridae	1.8			2.4
Total Siluriformes		35.7	31.0	39.4	29.3
Gymnotiformes	Gymnotidae	5.4	6.9	3.0	7.3
	Sternopygidae	3.6			4.9
	Aptereronotidae	1.8			2.4
Total Gymnotiformes		10.7	6.9	3.0	14.6
Cyprinodontiformes	Poeciliidae	5.4	6.9	6.1	4.9
Total Cyprinodontiformes		5.4	6.9	6.1	4.9
Perciformes	Cichlidae	10.7	6.9	9.1	12.2
Total Perciformes		10.7	6.9	9.1	12.2

the Upper Paraná River basin (Langeani et al. 2007), including the Paranapanema River (Castro et al. 2003), with Characidae and Loricariidae being the richest families in number of species, confirming other studies for the Upper Paraná River basin (e.g. Langeani et al. 2005; Galves et al. 2007).

Monitoring of non-native species with invasive potential is essential, as they may become dominant, especially in environments that are already under disturbance (Casatti et al. 2009; Britton and Orsi 2012), as pointed out by Simberloff (2013) and Orsi and Britton (2014). Among the recorded species, nine were introduced in the basin and sampled mostly in the upper stretches of the Centenário Stream. Some species, such as *L. platymetopon*, are considered invasive. It occurred naturally in the Lower Paraná River (Reis et al. 2003) and became abundant in the Upper Paraná River basin after the flooding of a natural geographical barrier (Sete Quedas) for the construction of the Itaipu Reservoir (Júlio Jr. et al., 2009). Other species, such as *A. dentatus*, *T. galeatus* and *R. descavadensis* also followed the same route of introduction. *Gymnotus omarorum* is native to the Uruguay River basin and its introduction may be associated with the commerce of live bait, as has been reported for other *Gymnotus* species (Ortega et al. 2015).

Initially distributed in the Amazon and Paraná-Paraguay basins, *H. eques* started occurring in the Upper Paraná River after the deliberate release by the aquarist industry (Graça and Pavanelli 2007; Magalhães 2015), the same path of introduction of *Poecilia reticulata*, a native species of the Venezuela rivers and present in several Brazilian basins (Graça and Pavanelli 2007; Oliveira et al. 2014). It is a generalist species considered indicative of degraded environments (Casatti et al. 2009; Souza and Tozzo 2013). *Oreochromis niloticus*, the Nile Tilapia, was introduced in several basins of South America and is widely raised for fisheries and in fish culture (Graça and Pavanelli 2007), and has considerable invasive potential reported (Martin et al. 2010; Pelicice et al. 2014).

The increase in species richness along the longitudinal axis observed in Capim Stream has been documented in several other streams (Oliveira and Garavello 2003; Casatti 2005). Species addition seems to prevail in less abrupt transitions of streams gradient (Ferreira and Petrere Jr. 2009), but segments more distant from the headwaters often present a more complex habitat, suggesting a higher number of species able variably to interact with the environment (Silva et al. 2013). The opposite situation observed in Tenente and Centenário streams may be strongly associated with local environmental characteristics (Mazzoni et al. 2006; Teresa and Romero 2010) and can be attributed to the degree of environmental degradation along the whole reach but concentrated in the upper portion. The studied streams have been disrupted by extensive

agricultural activities (especially sugar cane agriculture), pastures, dumping of domestic and industrial effluents, and riparian deforestation. The threat of loss of environmental integrity by the suppression of riparian vegetation results in both direct and indirect effects on fish communities (Pusey and Arthington 2003). The occupation of stream margins by grass and sugar cane crops can lead to the simplification of the riverine ecosystem, and result in both the loss of habitats and subsequent decline in the species richness (Casatti et al. 2006; 2009).

Small order water bodies are important for the conservation of fish biodiversity in the Paranapanema River, as well as in the Upper Paraná River basin. The fragility of these environments with their complexity and richness is evident. However, this fragility has apparently been excluded from management and preservation considerations, as evidenced by the environmental disturbance observed in this study. We hope that the results of the current inventory will serve as an incentive for further stream surveys in the region as an aid to efforts to mitigate further impacts.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors thank the Atalla Group for granting financial support to this study; the technicians Edson Santana da Silva and Aparecido de Souza for their assistance in the field activities; the biologist Ana Claudia Marioto the support during the collections; the specialists Fernando Camargo Jerep and José Luís Olivan Birindelli (Museu de Zoologia da Universidade Estadual de Londrina) for their help with the species identification and the referees for the comments and improving the manuscript.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Agostinho, A.A., A.E.A. de M. Vazzoler and S.M. Thomaz. 1995. The high river Paraná basin: limnological and ichthyological aspects; pp. 419–446, in: J.G. Tundisi, C.E.M. Bicudo and T. Matsumura-Tundisi (eds.). Limnology in Brazil. Rio de Janeiro: Academia Brasileira de Ciências e Sociedade Brasileira de Limnologia. 384 pp.
- Arcifa, M.S. and L.H. Esguícero. 2012. The fish fauna in the fish passage at the Ourinhos Dam, Paranapanema River. Neotropical Ichthyology 10(4): 715–722. <http://ref.scielo.org/6k423f>
- Bennemann, S.T. and O.A. Shibatta. 2002. Dinâmica de uma assembléia de peixes do rio Tibagi; pp. 433–442, in: M.E. Medri, E. Bianchini, O.A. Shibatta and J.A. Pimenta (eds). A bacia do rio Tibagi. Londrina: EDUEL. 595 pp.
- Brandão, H., A.P. Vidotto-Magnoni, I.P. Ramos and E.D. Carvalho. 2009. Assessment of the ichthyofauna in stretches under the influence of Salto Grande Reservoir (Middle Paranapanema River, SP/PR, Brazil). Acta Limnologica Brasiliensia 21(4): 451–463. [http://www.ablimno.org.br/acta/pdf/acta\\_v21n4\\_210410.pdf](http://www.ablimno.org.br/acta/pdf/acta_v21n4_210410.pdf)
- Britto, S G. de C. and E.D. Carvalho. 2006. Ecological attributes of fish fauna in the Taquaruçu Reservoir, Paranapanema River (Upper Paraná, Brazil): composition and spatial distribution. Acta Limnologica Brasiliensia 18(4): 377–388. [http://www.ablimno.org.br/acta/pdf/acta\\_limnologica\\_contents18o4E\\_files/18\(4\)\\_o4.pdf](http://www.ablimno.org.br/acta/pdf/acta_limnologica_contents18o4E_files/18(4)_o4.pdf)



- Britton J.R. and M.L. Orsi. 2012. Non-native fish in aquaculture and sport fishing in Brazil: economic benefits versus risks to fish diversity in the upper River Paraná Basin. *Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries* 22(3): 555–565. doi: 10.1007/s11160-012-9254-x
- Casatti, L. 2005. Fish assemblage structure in a first order stream, Southeastern Brazil: longitudinal distribution, seasonality, and microhabitat diversity. *Biota Neotropica* 5(1): 75–83. <http://ref.scielo.org/ywsbnx>
- Casatti, L., F. Langeani and C.P. Ferreira. 2006. Effects of physical habitat degradation on the stream fish assemblage structure in a pasture region. *Environmental Management* 38(6): 974–982. doi: 10.1007/s00267-005-0212-4
- Casatti, L., C.P. Ferreira and F.R. Carvalho. 2009. Grass-dominated stream sites exhibit low fish species diversity and dominance by guppies: an assessment of two tropical pasture river basins. *Hydrobiologia* 632(1): 273–283. doi: 10.1007/s10750-009-9849-y
- Castro, R.M.C., L. Casatti, H.F. Santos, K.M. Ferreira, A.C. Ribeiro, R.C. Benine, G.Z.P. Dardis, A.L.A. Melo, R. Stopiglia, T.X. Abreu, F.A. Bockmann, M. Carvalho, F.Z. Gibran and F.C.T. Lima. 2003. Estrutura e composição da ictiofauna de riachos do rio Paranapanema, Sudeste e Sul do Brasil. *Biota Neotropica* 3(1): 1–14. doi: 10.1590/S1676-06032003000100007
- Cetra, M., W. Barrella, F. Langeani Neto, A. G. Martins, B. J. Mello and R. S. Almeida. 2012. Fish fauna of headwater streams that cross the Atlantic Forest of south São Paulo state. *Check List* 8(3): 421–425. <http://www.checklist.org.br/getpdf?SL106-11>
- Cioneck, V. M., P. A. Sacramento, N. Zanatta, R. P. Ota, D. F. Corbetta and E. Benedito. 2012. Fishes from first order streams of lower Paranapanema and Ivaí rivers, upper Paraná River basin, Paraná, Brazil. *Check List* 8(6): 1158–1162. <http://www.checklist.org.br/getpdf?SL045-12>
- Costa, A. D. A., D. G. Ferreira, W. F. Silva, A. S. Zanatta, O. A. Shibatta and B. A. Galindo. 2013. Fishes (Osteichthyes: Actinopterygii) from the Penacho stream, upper Paraná River basin, Paraná State, Brazil. *Check List* 9(3): 519–523. <http://www.checklist.org.br/getpdf?SL134-12>
- Cunico, A. M., E. A. Ferreira, A. A. Agostinho, A. C. Beaumord and R. Fernandes. 2012. The effects of local and regional environmental factors on the structure of fish assemblages in the Pirapó Basin, Southern Brazil. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 105(3): 336–344. doi: 10.1016/j.landurbplan.2012.01.002
- Duke Energy. 2008. Peixes do rio Paranapanema. 2nd ed. São Paulo: Horizonte Geográfico. 120 pp.
- Duke Energy. 2013. ABC da Energia: a história da Duke Energy no Brasil. São Paulo: Duke Energy International Geração Paranapanema. 80 pp.
- Eschmeyer, W.N. (ed). 2015. Catalog of fishes: genera, species, references. Accessed at <http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>, 15 May 2015.
- Ferreira, F. C and M. Petrere Jr. 2009. The fish zonation of the Itanhaém River basin in the Atlantic Forest of southeast Brazil. *Hydrobiologia* 636: 11–34. doi: 10.1007/s10750-009-9932-4
- Furlan, N., K. E. Esteves and G. E. Quinágua. 2013. Environmental factors associated with fish distribution in an urban Neotropical river (Upper Tietê River Basin, São Paulo, Brazil). *Environmental Biology of Fishes* 96(1):77–92. doi: 10.1007/s10641-012-0024-3
- Galves, W., O. A. Shibatta and F. C. Jerep. 2007. Fish, Taquara river basin, northern of the state of Paraná, Brazil. *Check List* 3(3): 253–259. doi: 10.15560/3.3.253
- Graça, W.J. and C.S. Pavanelli. 2007. Peixes da planície de inundação do Alto Rio Paraná e áreas adjacentes. Maringá: EDUEM. 168 pp.
- Júlio Júnior, H.F., C. Dei Tós, A.A. Agostinho and C.S. Pavanelli. 2009. A massive invasion of fish species after eliminating a natural barrier in the upper rio Paraná basin. *Neotropical Ichthyology*, 7(4):709–718. doi: 10.1590/S1679-62252009000400021
- Kurchewski, G. and E. D. Carvalho. 2014. Os peixes da represa de Jurumirim: revisão temporal de estudos independentes; pp. 325–342, in: Henry, R. (org). Represa de Jurumirim: ecologia, modelagem e aspectos sociais. Ribeirão Preto: Holos. 435 pp.
- Langeani, F., L. Casatti, H. S. Gameiro, A. B. Carmo and D. C. Rossa-Feres. 2005. Riffle and pool fish communities in a large stream of southeastern Brazil. *Neotropical Ichthyology* 3(2): 305–311. <http://ref.scielo.org/s638rg>
- Langeani, F., R.M.C. Castro, O.T. Oyakawa, O.A. Shibatta, C.S. Pavanelli and L. Casatti. 2007. Diversidade da ictiofauna do Alto Rio Paraná: composição atual e perspectivas futuras. *Biota Neotropica* 7(3): 181–197. <http://ref.scielo.org/wc37bp>
- Lowe-McConnell, R.H. 1999. Estudos ecológicos de comunidades de peixes tropicais. São Paulo: EDUSP. 536 pp.
- Lucena, C.A.S. 2007. Revisão taxonômica das espécies do gênero *Roeboides* grupo-affinis (Ostariophysi, Characiformes, Characidae). *Iheringia. Série Zoologia* 97(2): 117–136. doi: 10.1590/S0073-47212007000200001
- Maack, R. 2012 Geografia física do Estado do Paraná. 4. Ed. Ponta Grossa: Editora UEPG. 526 pp.
- Magalhães, A.L.B. 2015. Presence of prohibited fishes in the Brazilian aquarium trade: effectiveness of laws, management options and future prospects. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology* 31(1): 170–172. doi: 10.1111/jai.12491
- Martin, C.W, M.M. Valentine and J.F. Valentine. 2010. Competitive interactions between invasive Nile Tilapia and native fish: the potential for altered trophic exchange and modification of food webs. *Plos One* 5(12): e14395. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0014395
- Mazzoni, R., N. Fenerich-Verani, E. P. Caramaschi and R. Iglesias-Rios. 2006. Stream-dwelling fish communities from an Atlantic rain forest drainage. *Brazilian Archives of Biology and Technology* 49(2): 249–256. doi: 10.1590/S1516-89132006000300010
- Oliveira, T.D., A.C. Reis, C.O. Guedes, M.L. Sales, E.P.R Braga, T.F. Ratton, B.P. Maia and A.L.B. Magalhães. 2014. Establishment of non-native guppy *Poecilia reticulata* (Peters, 1859) (Cyprinodontiformes: Poeciliidae) in an Municipal Park located in Minas Gerais State, Brazil. *Pan-American Journal of Aquatic Sciences* 9(1): 21–30. [http://www.panamjas.org/pdf\\_artigos/PANAMJAS\\_9\(1\)\\_21-30.pdf](http://www.panamjas.org/pdf_artigos/PANAMJAS_9(1)_21-30.pdf)
- Oliveira, A.K. and J.C. Garavello. 2003. Fish assemblage composition in a tributary of the Mogi Guaçu river basin, southeastern Brazil. *Iheringia, Zoologia* 93(2): 127–138. <http://ref.scielo.org/hsd4x2>
- Orsi, M.L. 2010. Estratégias reprodutivas de peixes: estratégias reprodutivas de peixes da região média-baixa do Rio Paranapanema, reservatório de Capivara. São Paulo: Blucher. 115 pp.
- Orsi, M.L. and J.R. Britton. 2014. Long-term changes in the fish assemblage of a Neotropical hydroelectric reservoir. *Journal of Fish Biology* 84(6): 1964–1970. doi: 10.1111/jfb.12392
- Ortega, J.C.G., H.F. Júlio, L.C. Gomes and A.A. Agostinho. 2015. Fish farming as the main driver of fish introductions in Neotropical reservoirs. *Hydrobiologia* 746(1): 147–158. doi: 10.1007/s10750-014-2025-z
- Pagotto, J.P.A., S. Veríssimo, E. Goulart and F.T. Mise. 2012. Fishes (Osteichthyes: Actinopterygii) from the Pirapó River drainage, upper Paraná River basin, Paraná state, Brazil. *Check List* 8(3): 463–468. <http://www.checklist.org.br/getpdf?SL095-11>
- Pelice, F.M., J.R.S. Vitule, D.P. Lima Junior, M.L.Orsi and A.A. Agostinho. 2014. A serious new threat to Brazilian freshwater ecosystems: the naturalization of nonnative fish by decree. *Conservation Letters* 7(1): 55–60. doi: 10.1111/conl.12029
- Pettesse, M.L., M. Petrere Jr. and R.J. Spigolon. 2007. Adaptation of the reservoir fish assemblage index (RFAI) for assessing the Barra Bonita Reservoir (São Paulo, Brazil). *River Research and Application* 23(6): 595–612. doi: 10.1002/rra.1001
- Pusey, B.J. and A.H. Arthington. 2003. Importance of the riparian zone to the conservation and management of freshwater fish: a review. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 54(1) 1–16. doi: 10.1071/MF02041

- Reis, R.E., S.O. Kullander and C.J. Ferraris Jr. (orgs.). 2003. Check list of the freshwater fishes of South and Central America. Porto Alegre: EDIPUCRS. 742 pp.
  - Sampaio, T. 1944. Relatório sobre os estudos efetuados nos rios Itapetininga e Paranapanema. Revista do Instituto Geográfico e Geológico 2(3): 30–81.
  - Silva, J. F. M., C. B. Raio, D. F. S. Bernardino and S. T. Bennemann. Longitudinal patterns of fish assemblages in mountain streams from tropical forest biome. Biota Neotropica 13(3): 64–73. doi: 10.1590/S1676-06032013000300008
  - Simberloff, D. 2013. Biological invasions: prospects for slowing a major global change. Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene 1: 000008. doi: 10.12952/journal.elementa.000008
  - Souza, F. and R. A. Tozzo. 2013. *Poecilia reticulata* Peters 1859 (Cyprinodontiformes, Poeciliidae) como possível bioindicador de ambientes degradados. Revista Meio Ambiente e Sustentabilidade,3 (2): 162–175. <http://www.grupouninter.com.br/revistameioambiente/index.php/meioAmbiente/article/view/164>
  - Teresa, F.B. and R. de M. Romero. 2010. Influence of the riparian zone phytophysiognomies on the longitudinal distribution of fishes: evidence from a Brazilian savanna stream. 8(1): 163–170. doi: 10.1590/S1679-62252010000100019
  - Vidotto-Magnoni, A. P. 2009. Ecologia trófica das assembleias de peixes do reservatório de Chavantes (Médio rio Paranapanema, SP/PR) [Ph.D. thesis]. Botucatu: Universidade Estadual Paulista. 115 pp.
- Author’s contribution statement:** **APVM** and **JGS** wrote the text, **DAZG**, **ADAC** and **MHSY** collected the data and revised the text; **MLO** and **FSA** coordinated the field staff and revised the text.
- Received:** 26 March 2015  
**Accepted:** 7 July 2015  
**Academic editor:** Melanie L. Stiassny